

Serial No. 09/453,480

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 8 and 11 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A cushioning conversion machine for converting multi-ply sheet stock material into a cushioning dunnage product, comprising a stock supply assembly which supplies stock material to be converted, and a conversion assembly which draws the stock material from the stock supply and converts the stock material into a strip of cushioning, wherein the stock supply assembly includes:

a damper member at an upstream end of the machine over which the multi-ply stock material is trained,

first and second constant entry guides disposed between the damper member and the conversion assembly for passage of first and second respective plies of the multi-ply stock material thereover, and

first and second separators between the first and second constant entry guides and the conversion assembly between or around which the respective first and second plies pass before passage to the conversion assembly;

wherein the damper member, the first constant entry guide, and the first separator define a first path which the first ply follows, and the damper member, the second constant entry guide, and the second separator define a second path that is different and independent from the first path and which the second ply follows.

8. (Twice Amended) A method of converting multi-ply sheet stock material into a cushioning dunnage, comprising drawing the stock material from a stock supply and converting the stock material into a strip of cushioning, wherein first and second plies of the stock material are guided along respective first and second different and independent paths, the first path being characterized in that the first ply passes over or around in sequence a first constant entry roller and a first separator and wherein the

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second path is characterized in that the second ply passes over or around in sequence a second constant entry roller and a second separator, the first and second constant entry rollers being upstream of conversion components that convert the stock material into a strip of cushioning, and wherein the first and second separators are between the first and second constant entry guides and the conversion components.

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11. (Amended) A conversion method for converting sheet stock material into a cushioning dunnage product, comprising drawing sheet stock material from a stock supply, converting the stock material into a strip of cushioning, and cutting the strip of cushioning using a moving blade to cut the strip of cushioning across a strip path between a retracted position and an extended position, wherein a shutter is moved in trailing relation to the moving blade for substantially blocking the strip path when the moving blade is in its extended position, thereby to prevent movement of a cut end of the strip from moving behind the moving blade as the moving blade slices through the strip of cushioning.

Please add new claims 13-15 as follows:

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13. (New) A conversion machine as set forth in claim 4, wherein the moving blade and shutter are separate components having common movement.

14. (New) A conversion machine as set forth in claim 4, further including a second blade with which the moving blade coacts to sever the strip of cushioning.

15. (New) A conversion machine as set forth in claim 14, wherein the second blade is a stationary blade.
